United Nations E/2014/77

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 May 2014

Original: English

2014 session
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: Development Cooperation Forum

Trends and progress in international development cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/16, the present report is submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Development Cooperation Forum. It builds on the two-year preparatory process for the biennial high-level meeting of the Forum, to take place in New York on 10 and 11 July 2014. The report provides a brief overview of the preparatory process and the ways in which the process has underscored the need for a new narrative of development cooperation that fits the transformation envisaged in the emerging post-2015 development agenda (section I). The Secretary-General reviews recent trends in international development cooperation, focusing on progress in and allocation of official development assistance, and trends in other sources of development cooperation — public and private, international and domestic resources — that will be needed to provide support for the implementation of an ambitious post-2015 development agenda (section II). The Secretary-General also examines the principles of quality and effectiveness of development cooperation (section III), and reviews South-South cooperation in terms of principles, approaches and features, recent trends and challenges (section IV). The report explores features of a renewed global partnership for development (section V) and addresses how to strengthen mutual accountability and the availability of user-friendly information, looking ahead to a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation after 2015 (section VI). The report concludes with key messages and recommendations (section VII).

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-53595 (E) 110614

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/16, the present report is submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Development Cooperation Forum. The report builds on the two-year preparatory process for the 2014 Forum, which has integrated analytical work with stakeholder engagement and high-level preparatory symposiums held in Ethiopia, Germany and Switzerland.

2. The 2012-2014 Development Cooperation Forum cycle has aimed, in particular, to (a) examine the implications of a post-2015 development agenda for the future of development cooperation, (b) assess how a renewed global partnership for development could work in practice, (c) advance policy dialogue among Southern development cooperation partners on common issues and challenges, and (d) identify ways to enhance effectiveness and global monitoring and accountability for development cooperation. Dedicated policy dialogues were also held on the role of different actors in development cooperation after 2015, including Southern partners, women, philanthropic foundations and local and regional authorities.

3. The 2014 Forum aims to contribute to the discussions on a post-2015 development agenda which unifies efforts to address poverty eradication and sustainable development and which applies universally, to all countries. The present report reflects the main messages emanating from the preparations for the Forum on the need for a new narrative of development cooperation that fits the transformation envisaged in the emerging post-2015 development agenda.

II. Recent trends in international development cooperation

A. Progress in and allocation of official development assistance

4. Official development assistance (ODA) will continue to be a critical source of development finance after 2015. Yet, the use of ODA needs to be rethought so as to meet both established and new demands and to adapt to a unified and universal development agenda. ODA can be better targeted than other sources to help ensure inclusive access to public services; leverage other sources of development finance or improve their targeting; and put the world on the pathway to sustainability. Further progress on ODA quality, transparency and accountability will also be critical.

5. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), after two years of falling volumes, ODA rebounded in 2013 and reached its highest-ever level, with US$ 134.8 billion in net disbursements.[1] This amount marks a 6.1 per cent increase in net ODA in real terms compared to 2012, with most increases resulting from multilateral and humanitarian aid and increased debt relief. With this, Development Assistance Committee donors provided 0.30 per cent of their combined gross national income as ODA, still far from the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent. Only five donors met the target of 0.7 per cent,[2] including the United Kingdom of

[1] OECD, "Aid to developing countries rebounds in 2013 to reach an all-time high" (Press release, Paris, 8 April 2014).

[2] Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which became the first Group of 8 country to meet the target since it was agreed in 1970. Seventeen of the 28 members of the Development Assistance Committee[3] increased ODA, while 11 reported a decrease. The Committee's forward spending survey of 2014 indicates that country programmable aid rose by 10.2 per cent in real terms in 2013; it is projected to increase slightly by 2.4 per cent in real terms in 2014 and to remain stable beyond 2014.[4] A detailed analysis of progress achieved in Millennium Development Goal 8, including ODA trends, will be provided in the forthcoming 2014 MDG Gap Task Force Report.

6. Not all groups of developing countries have benefited from ODA increases equally. Net bilateral ODA to least developed countries rose by 12.3 per cent in real terms in 2013 to about $30 billion, although that amount is due mainly to exceptional debt relief to Myanmar. ODA to the African continent decreased by 5.6 per cent in 2013, despite Africa's being considered an international priority for ODA allocation. In 2012 (as data for 2013 was not fully available), ODA to least developed countries, at 0.09 per cent of the gross national income of Development Assistance Committee donors, remained far below the United Nations target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent, which was met by only eight countries.[5] The share of ODA flows to least developed countries has been decreasing in recent years, while allocations have increased to upper middle-income countries.[6] Similarly, overall aid for trade commitments increased by 20 per cent in 2012. Yet, the share of total aid for trade of least developed countries fell by 2 per cent in 2012.[7] Given their poor record regarding the Millennium Development Goals and the fact that ODA still represents over 70 per cent of the total external finance of least developed countries,[8] the prospect of decreases in flows of ODA to least developed countries, especially in Africa, is worrisome.[9]

7. ODA to landlocked developing countries has stagnated for four consecutive years since 2009, at around $24.5 billion (in 2012 dollars).[10] ODA to small island developing States fell steeply, from $7.3 billion in 2010 to $4.4 billion in 2012. Moreover, ODA to countries affected by conflict or in vulnerable situations, several of which are already underaided, is expected to shrink further.[11]

8. There is a clear sense that while poverty eradication will remain the central imperative after 2015, sustainable development will also move centre stage, as reflected in the current work on sustainable development goals. All developing countries will need continued support to pursue sustainable development, but the kind of support needed will change over time. A different mix of financial support, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and technology transfer will be required. An enabling macroeconomic environment and international financial cooperation and

[3] The analysis includes aid flows from the Czech Republic, Iceland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[4] OECD, *Outlook on aid: survey on donors' forward spending plans 2014-2017* (forthcoming).

[5] Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

[6] OECD, *Targeting ODA Towards Countries in Greatest Need*, DCD/DAC 2014 (20).

[7] OECD, *Aid for Trade in 2012: Increasing Volumes Hardening Terms*, CTD Session on Aid for Trade, WTO, 9 April 2014.

[8] OECD, *Targeting ODA Towards Countries in Greatest Need*, DCD/DAC 2014 (20).

[9] OECD, *Outlook on aid: survey on donors' forward spending plans 2014-2017* (forthcoming).

[10] United Nations, 2014 MDG Gap Task Force Report (forthcoming).

[11] OECD, *Fragile States 2014: domestic revenue mobilization*, 2014.

greater policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies (e.g. trade, debt, agricultural subsidies, financial and tax regulations, and technology) are critical for all countries; yet these elements will carry particular weight in the growing number of less aid-dependent countries.

9. ODA will remain crucial in least developed countries.[12] Yet, well-targeted support can also be highly effective in supporting the transition in middle-income countries. Especially in low middle-income countries, ODA can play a critical role in tackling structural barriers and in building the institutional frameworks needed for economic growth, good governance and investment.[13]

10. A key challenge for policymakers will be to reconcile the demands of the different groups of countries arising from a more ambitious post-2015 development agenda. Currently, the majority of individuals whose income or consumption is below the poverty lines of $1.25 and $2.00 per day are located in the heterogeneous group of middle-income countries. Even in 2030, middle-income countries could account for between one-third and one-half of global poverty (estimated against the two respective income poverty lines), if inequality trends continue on their current trajectory.[14] At the same time, a core group of about 30 low-income countries, many emerging from conflict, remain very vulnerable. Adopting a targeted approach to assist those living in extreme poverty will be critical.

Redefinition of official development assistance

Several approaches for updating the methodology for measuring ODA are being discussed at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. These approaches include only counting the grant equivalent of loans, as opposed to the total face value loan amount in ODA, and removing "in-donor" costs, such as refugee costs or administrative costs of operating a development cooperation agency, from ODA, to remove perverse incentives.[15]

Discussions centre on establishing clear quantitative criteria for the term "concessional in character". To better include and record donors' budgetary efforts and burden-sharing, proposals range from using a fixed interest rate (such as 5 per cent, down from 10 per cent) to discount loans and to establish their grant element, or using a differentiated, risk-adjusted reference rate to better reflect the present global situation in financial markets.

[12] Least developed countries would benefit from ODA allocation based on the agreed criteria regarding least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index (see General Assembly resolution 67/221).

[13] Jose Antonio Alonso; Jonathan Glennie; and Andy Sumner, "Middle-income countries and the future of development cooperation", 2014.

[14] Sumner, Andy "Where do the Poor Live?", World Development, 40, 2012.

[15] OECD, "Modernizing the DAC's Development Finance Statistics", DAC senior-level meeting, 3-4 March 2014.

There is concern that a redefinition may statistically inflate the volume of ODA. This could make it easier for donors to meet the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI with a smaller donor effort than what would be needed to meet the ODA target under the current definition. Yet, it is also seen as an opportunity to ensure the reliability of ODA as an indicator of donor effort and to further incentivize and redirect ODA to where it is most needed and has the greatest impact.

The exercise, to be completed by the end of 2014, also entails an effort to develop a broader headline measure of "total official support for development" to include other flows, such as innovative instruments leveraging resources from the private sector, support to global public goods and possibly also certain peace and security expenditure.

Such a broader concept will include less concessional flows than ODA and funds allocated for uses not included in the present ODA definition. This comes in response to ongoing discussions about the boundaries of ODA and the prospect of a broader post-2015 development agenda, with unprecedented financing needs.

11. ODA is increasingly being used to finance regional and global public goods, including research for infectious disease control, crime control and environmental sustainability.[16] Climate change financing has largely evolved on a separate track. A post-2015 development agenda, unifying poverty eradication and sustainable development, raises the concern that ODA may be diverted from poverty eradication. While often entailing large developmental benefits for recipient countries, international public finance used for global public goods is conceptually different and should be understood as such. It is critical that financing flows for global public goods are accounted for separately and that they are additional to existing ODA commitments.[17]

B. Trends in other sources of development cooperation

12. Private and public resources — both national and international — are necessary to complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goals business and to finance the large-scale, long-term investment needs associated with sustainable development. The trends in ODA and the role ODA can play in leveraging other sources of development financing, especially in areas where private sources are insufficient or unavailable, will be examined in paragraphs 13 to 20 below.

13. Despite recent progress, a significant gap persists in raising public revenues, especially in low-income countries, where in 2009 tax revenues accounted for only 10 to 14 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), one third less than in middle-income countries and far below the 20 to 30 per cent of GDP reached in high-income

[16] United Nations Task Team Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development, background paper "The variety of national, regional and international public sources for development finance", 2013

[17] Ibid.

countries.[18] Low tax to GDP ratios are exacerbated by capital flight. Despite donors' strong political commitment and increasing evidence of the success of ODA used in support of tax matters, in 2012 only $120 million, or 0.07 per cent of ODA provided to developing countries, supported tax-related activities as a primary focus.[19] As the international community is scaling up ODA in support of domestic resource mobilization, international tax dialogue forums, such as the International Tax Dialogue, the International Tax Compact and the African Tax Administration Forum, can help to ensure coherence and coordination, but they cannot substitute for improved donor reporting.[20]

14. Global foreign direct investment (FDI) remains the largest and most stable external source of private financing in developing countries. FDI inflows to developing countries reached a new high of $759 billion in 2013.[21] Both the allocation and quality of FDI continue to be of concern. FDI remains concentrated in a small number of developing countries. A total of $322 billion of FDI goes to Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). Flows to Africa, although on the rise, remain concentrated in resource-rich countries. Data suggests a shift towards more volatile forms of investment.[22] ODA can help to catalyse FDI and support developing countries in creating an enabling domestic environment for FDI that promotes growth, employment and other development objectives. Such efforts should be supported by an enabling macroeconomic and financial environment and better access to international financial markets.

15. Steps also need to be taken to tap the resources of institutional investors. Currently, less than 1 per cent of institutional investors' portfolios are allocated to infrastructure investments in developing countries.[23] Pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds or sovereign wealth funds in high-income and emerging economies are seen as potential pools for such investments.[24] Some of the major barriers to unlocking this potential include the lack of high quality feasibility studies and bankable projects, an enabling environment conducive to investment in developing countries, expertise to assess infrastructure projects and adequate governance mechanisms and institutions.

16. Leveraging public financing has potential to generate additional resources for development cooperation. It can encourage investment that would otherwise be deemed too risky or unprofitable. There will be added impact if investments are backed by an enabling macroeconomic environment and structures that link them to value chains in which poor farmers and service providers can participate. Leveraging and blending public and private financing should be guided by development

---

[18] World Bank, *Financing for Development Post-2015*, 2013.

[19] OECD, 2012 data on ODA commitments for tax activities (excludes figures from the International Monetary Fund).

[20] The Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Development Finance Statistics has been tasked to develop alternatives to improve donor reporting on their direct support to tax-related activities.

[21] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Global Investment Trends Monitor*, No. 15, 2014.

[22] See E/2014/53.

[23] Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Mapping of global public sector financing flows" (2013); background paper for the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

[24] Ibid.

effectiveness principles to prevent drawbacks such as lack of clarity about additionality and purpose; limited influence of donors and recipients on investment design and implementation; diminished transparency and accountability; risk of misalignment of private sector and country priorities; danger of increased debt burden; inattention to small- and medium-sized enterprises; the opportunity cost incurred when use of public money to mobilize private resources does not have the same or a larger development impact than if it had been devoted directly to a developmental purpose; and the risks of misappropriation.

17. Accurate data on the growing contributions from the diverse range of philanthropic foundations, including, increasingly, in emerging economies, is not readily available. Efforts by a small but growing number of venture philanthropists — or impact investors — are promising,[25] but they require careful scrutiny to assess the sustainability of their initiatives and potential for scaling-up.

18. South-South cooperation (SSC) continues to rise in scale and importance, together with growing South-South trade, investment and regional integration (see section IV below). SSC is foreseen to continue its growth as a proportion of international development cooperation, given the plans by large developing economies to increase such cooperation considerably over the next five years.

19. Rapid urbanization and the emergence of new forms of decentralized governance and cooperation have led to markedly greater involvement of local and regional governments in the planning and delivery of development cooperation. There is growing interest in quantifying such decentralized development cooperation as an increasingly relevant channel and ensuring synergies with national programmes of support for decentralization.

20. So far, innovative development financing mechanisms have raised or intermediated only a modest amount of resources — $5.8 billion for health and $2.6 billion for climate and other environmental programmes. Yet, if successfully implemented, they could generate as much as $400 billion to $450 billion per year in additional long-term predictable funding,[26] including, for example, low-carbon investments.[27]

III. Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation

21. Effectiveness issues arise among all development partners and can be linked to challenges at the technical level as well as to a lack of priority. The effectiveness of all types of development cooperation needs to be improved so as to support inclusive country ownership, as well as trust-based, inclusive partnerships and a focus on long-term, cost-effective development impact. Overly ambitious or unrealistic timetables that do not take into account the absorptive and operational capacities, budgetary

[25] OECD netFWD (2014), *Venture philanthropy in development: dynamics, challenges and lessons in the search for greater impact*, 2014.

[26] Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "In search of new development finance", World Economic and Social Survey, 2012.

[27] United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development, *The variety of national, regional and international public sources of development finance*, 2013.

issues and political factors, fragmentation and lack of coherence associated with a multiplicity of actors can prevent the effective delivery and use of international development cooperation.

22. The 2014 progress report prepared for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation reviews principles agreed in 2011 at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and demonstrates that some progress has been achieved on critical ODA commitments and other aspects of effective development cooperation, while it calls for further improvements.

23. Effective monitoring and continued policy dialogue at the United Nations among all Member States and other actors are needed to make greater progress towards effective development cooperation. The Global Partnership can make specific contributions to this effort.

A. Official development assistance quality principles: a way forward for better operations

24. International efforts to increase ODA effectiveness and the impact of poverty reduction have been emphasized since the 2002 Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development. Some progress has been made on certain principles covered by the aid effectiveness agenda, such as untying (opening competition for aid-funded procurement), reporting ODA in the national budget of aid-receiving countries and using country administrative systems in the management of aid-funded programmes and projects. Other "ODA quality" principles, referenced in different United Nations summits and conferences, have not received adequate attention in the absence of measurable indicators or targets.

25. Conditions attached to ODA delivery remain too numerous and detailed in some cases. Policy conditionality works best if designed as a harmonized system of incentives by all ODA providers and is based on increased coherence with other policy areas. Independent assessments of good practices pursued in reaching mutual agreement on ODA delivery targets, benchmarks and policies, together with global tracking of progress based on clear indicators, could further advance progress.

26. The proportion of untied bilateral ODA reached 79 per cent in 2012.[28] Fully untied ODA to all recipient countries can reduce the costs of goods and services by 15 to 30 per cent, or even more, for example, in the case of food assistance.[29]

27. Sector-wide or programme-based approaches have shown good results in supporting countries' efforts to harmonize planning, disbursement and reporting procedures, including by using pooled funding and direct budget support. Effective modalities such as these should be further analysed and better shared.

28. Despite ongoing reforms, internal donor procedures remain complex and insufficiently flexible, impeding country-owned cooperation. Decentralizing decision-making and increasing joint multi-year programming, financing and analysis remain priorities. The fragmented landscape of ODA providers has an uneven impact on recipient Governments, depending mainly on their ability to

[28] OECD/UNDP (2014), *Making development cooperation more effective: 2014 progress report*.

[29] OECD (2009), *Untying aid: is it working? Thematic study on the developmental effectiveness of untied aid: evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the 2001 DAC recommendation on untying ODA to the LDCs*.

manage this diversity, for example, through greater coherence in their national coordinating bodies to manage ODA.

29. Predictability, or more reliable information on scheduled and actual ODA disbursements, enables Governments to plan and deploy funds meaningfully in line with priorities. Eighty-four per cent of scheduled disbursements of 77 ODA providers were paid out within the fiscal year, as scheduled, up from 79 per cent in 2010.[30] Yet, gaps remain in making disbursement plans accurate. On average, 83 per cent of estimated total funding is covered by forward-spending plans for the fiscal year ending in 2014, 70 per cent for 2015 and 57 per cent for 2016.[31] Efforts must continue to be made to implement rolling three- to five-year forward expenditure plans, to enable full medium-term predictability.

30. Parliaments and civil society — including independent media and audit and evaluation offices, and local and regional government authorities and offices — each play distinct and essential roles in increasing accountability and participatory governance. An enabling, democratic environment, including the requisite legislative and institutional frameworks, mechanisms that inform, consult and involve citizens, and civic education are all essential to foster social accountability of ODA spending and the national budget.

31. Information on ODA spending and absorption must become a more useable tool in order for developing countries to plan and manage development programmes effectively, to deliver services where they are needed most and to hold providers accountable for agreed targets. It is also essential for parliaments and ODA providers, and for citizens to hold their Governments answerable.

32. Providers should help to build capacity so as to strengthen data collection and statistical analysis. Such support can be monitored through existing global initiatives, such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative, the Open Government Partnership or the Open Budget Partnership. While some progress has been made in strengthening national mutual accountability for development cooperation, it remains limited (see section VI below).

33. Countries are making greater efforts to track ODA allocations to gender equality.[32] While the coverage ratio of ODA in the gender equality marker system has increased, providers should also put in place tracking systems to identify commitments to direct investments in women and girls. Gender-sensitive monitoring and accountability needs to be strengthened and underpinned by rigorous impact evaluations.

34. Voluntary tracking of progress on the implementation of principles can facilitate behavioural changes and policy, and operational and procedural reforms. It should be extended to the range of ODA quality principles and reflected in accountability and transparency initiatives tracking ODA performance. Independent reviews of the progress of providers and recipients can also be effective in exerting pressure. Such reviews should be fully funded and in line with national monitoring efforts.

---

[30] OECD/UNDP (2014), *Making development cooperation more effective*.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid.

B. Quality and effectiveness of development cooperation beyond official development assistance

35. Development cooperation actors base partnerships on unique histories and practices. There is a logic to further explore effectiveness principles of different players as input to a renewed global partnership for development and a common narrative for development cooperation after 2015 (see section V below). Despite differences on technical aspects, there are common strands concerning national ownership, trust-based, inclusive partnerships and a focusing on long-term, cost-effective development impact. The impact of private sector engagement in development will need to be assessed regularly in future.

36. Despite the appeal of their innovative business models, philanthropic organizations implement their assistance in a way that can have unintended impacts. Some foundations have started to engage in dialogue on effective development cooperation to identify opportunities for collaboration and to provide data, including impact assessments.[33]

37. South-South cooperation (SSC) is usually initiated to address specific needs at the request of developing countries, without promoting a model of development or imposing policy conditions and with a focus on mutual benefits (see section IV below). Assistance is usually provided in a timely manner and delivered flexibly. SSC offers options for developing countries to benefit from solutions that are cost-effective and worked out in similar development contexts. Southern partners are making efforts to better measure and evaluate their cooperation, going beyond mere quantification in monetary terms.

38. The Istanbul Principles for Civil Society Organizations' Development Effectiveness and the International Framework for Civil Society Organization Development Effectiveness set out how civil society can be more effective as advocates and delivering agents. They outline steps to be taken in transparency, multiple accountability and integrity in their internal operations and relationships, as actors in their own rights. Civil society requires an enabling environment, resources and an institutional home for structured independent analysis and global monitoring of progress regarding global principles for development effectiveness.

39. Decentralized development cooperation has moved notably from a donor-recipient model to a collaborative peer-to-peer engagement of local and regional governments, their associations and multilateral actors. Such cooperation can facilitate the cost-effective and targeted delivery of services, directly responding to challenges that affect the lives of citizens. It benefits from close proximity, local ownership and a sense of accountability, though monitoring is home-grown and in its infancy. It also faces challenges to scaling up successes and aligning with national priorities. More research is needed to collect performance information more systematically, including on South-South decentralized cooperation and engagements of local and regional governments with the private sector.

[33] See voluntary guidelines for effective philanthropic engagement, developed by several foundations in conjunction with OECD netFWD.

IV. Harnessing the benefits of South-South cooperation

A. Principles, approaches and features

40. Over the past 60 years, as countries in the South have evolved, so has their development cooperation. South-South development cooperation embraces a wide range of approaches to addressing a variety of development challenges, anchored in different histories, economic capabilities, political systems and institutional configurations.

41. Even with this diversity, some principles, as emphasized in the outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi, and other international conferences, can be widely observed in the policies and practices of Southern partners. Examples include respect for national sovereignty, ownership and independence; non-interference in domestic affairs; alignment with national priorities; and unity, solidarity and equality among partners. A review undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs reveals that principles of South-South cooperation have evolved with geopolitical and economic developments. Many globally endorsed principles first emerged in bilateral or regional contexts. They are applied in different contexts and practiced in different ways.

42. Southern partners have identified some key features of South-South cooperation in recent dialogue, under the auspices of the Development Cooperation Forum, including the following: diversity of approaches; horizontality, as a voluntary process and mutually agreed relationship; equal distribution of benefits; non-conditionality; comprehensive vision, cultivating the capacity for longer-term sustained development; results-orientation, aimed at enhancing mutual benefits and promoting win-win outcomes and complementarities; flexibility, in ways of sharing their own development experiences and knowledge; and visibility, with a focus on concrete results and through demand-driven projects that target country needs.

43. Some Southern partners see an integrated approach — encompassing also non-concessional loans and commercial transactions in trade and investment — as another distinct feature of their cooperation, though this approach goes beyond the scope of South-South cooperation applied in the present report.

B. Recent trends and developments

44. South-South cooperation[34] is estimated at between $16.1 billion and $19 billion in 2011.[35] The share of SSC in total development cooperation increased

[34] For reporting purposes, South-South cooperation in the present report includes official concessional resources (concessional loans, grants as well as debt relief and technical cooperation) that are provided within the South for development purposes.

[35] Many Southern partners do not publish data on a yearly basis. As a result, figures on the volume of SSC are estimates based on data collected in preparation for the second international development cooperation report (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, forthcoming). Only partial data is available for 2012-2013. Therefore, it is not possible to report the volume of SSC for 2012-2013. It is also recognized in the present report that, owing to the specificities of SSC, the reporting of the financial value of such cooperation can only be indicative and cannot capture the actual scale and impact of SSC.

from 6.7 per cent in 2006 to 10 per cent in 2011 — below its peak of 11 per cent in 2008. South-South humanitarian assistance varies between 3.5 and 5 per cent of total SSC, with Arab countries accounting for half of the disbursements.

45. Many Southern partners carry out their development cooperation within their regions, where they play "anchor" roles that drive growth, trade and investment. Some partners also prioritize countries where they have historical cultural, religious or linguistic ties. Relatively fewer partners have global reach. The increasing role of Southern multilateral institutions[36] will potentially increase the geographical coverage of SSC. Analysis of larger Southern partners indicates that over three-quarters of their SSC involves low-income countries or least developed countries. They concentrate their concessional resources on these countries and provide non-concessional export credits to richer countries.

46. SSC covers a wide range of sectors. Some Southern partners are particularly willing to support infrastructure and production, in part reflecting acknowledgement of the role of such sectors in their own development. Infrastructure predominates, estimated at around 55 per cent of SSC. Yet, over a third of SSC continues to support social sectors and it is prominent in agriculture and food security, health, education and, increasingly, social protection. Individual partners' sectoral allocation patterns tend to mirror strong and growing sectors in their own countries, which allow them to draw on high expertise and new technology.

47. Many Southern partners offer grant-based cooperation only, whereas some larger bilateral and multilateral partners provide concessional loans primarily. Detailed analysis indicates that most SSC loans are highly concessional. Nevertheless, there appears to be considerable confusion in the international community about the cost of such loans, in part because observers are also including non-concessional export credits, or lines of credit, and private sector loans and investment.

48. SSC is characterized by its diversity and is provided through a number of modalities. Projects, including technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives, represent around 75 per cent of SSC. In recent years, some Southern partners have been transforming their technical cooperation from training to larger investments so as to build institutions in partner countries.

49. SSC is undertaken primarily through bilateral channels. In recent years, Southern partners have increasingly been working with multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, the World Bank and regional organizations. In general, smaller developing countries put a relatively higher emphasis on channelling their development funding through multilateral organizations. Southern multilateral organizations are also becoming significant channels of SSC.

50. SSC tends to come with few preceding procedural conditions which must be met before cooperation goes into effect. The purchase of goods and services from the providing country, or the direct provision of experts, labour and materials, is more often observed in bilateral SSC; most SSC undertaken by Southern multilateral and regional organizations does not contain such terms. Partners also

[36] For example, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Fund for International Development of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Bank of the South.

particularly value SSC for its flexibility to support key (and changing) priorities in their own national development programmes (see section III.B above).

C. Challenges

51. Recent dialogues among Southern partners repeatedly underscored the need to improve SSC on several fronts.

52. There have been calls to strengthen the sustainability of South-South development cooperation. It has been observed that some ambitious South-South initiatives in this area are constrained by financing and, as a result, lack follow-up.

53. The quality and availability of information on the scale and impact of SSC have not kept pace with the growing demands among Southern partners for peer learning. Southern partners have thus stressed the importance of strengthening the evaluation of the achievements and development impact of SSC projects. This effort would help them to reflect more systematically on the strengths and weaknesses of their development cooperation and further improve the results. Some Southern partners have taken steps to improve the availability of information, while improving the evaluation of their cooperation.

54. Current analytical frameworks, which draw on those used for traditional development cooperation, are also considered inadequate for South-South cooperation, given its different modalities. There have been suggestions to rethink the framing of SSC approaches, modalities and issues by developing a lexicon suited to SSC.

55. Southern partners have also expressed a need to further promote South-South learning at the global level. At global forums, developing countries are sharing their successful experiences. Such peer learning could potentially enrich global development dialogue. Multilateral institutions and the Development Cooperation Forum are expected to play a more active role in facilitation of such learning.

V. Renewing the global partnership for development

A. Implementing the global partnership for development

56. The global partnership for development is set out in the Millennium Declaration, the 2002 Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on sustainable development. It has served, among other purposes, as the framework for mobilizing international support for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

57. With its focus on ODA, trade, debt relief and making available the benefits of new technologies, Millennium Development Goal 8, on developing a global partnership for development, captures several key issues addressed in the Monterrey Consensus. Yet, the Monterrey Consensus goes well beyond those issues by also addressing domestic resource mobilization, international private financing and systemic issues, namely, ensuring that international monetary, financial and trading systems support development efforts. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

stresses additional elements, such as the importance of capacity-building, technology transfer and multi-stakeholder partnerships for transitioning towards sustainable development. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, Member States also agreed to develop strategies to finance sustainable development.

B. Key features of a renewed global partnership for development

58. A transformative post-2015 development agenda, with sustainable development at its centre, must be matched by a different scale and scope of support. Mobilizing ODA will remain a central purpose of the global partnership for development. Yet, a renewed and intergovernmentally agreed global partnership for development is needed that puts greater emphasis on the full breadth of issues captured in the Monterrey Consensus and complemented by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and outcomes of the related follow-up processes, including the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

59. A renewed global partnership for development will have to bring together the Monterrey and Rio tracks on financing for development and means of implementation, taking the Monterrey Consensus as a starting point. It will have to mobilize domestic and international support — both public and private — to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and put the world on a sustainable development pathway. As part of this effort, scaled-up investment will be needed for poverty eradication, the transition towards sustainable development and the provisioning of regional and global public goods.

60. The challenge and opportunity ahead involve not only designing a renewed global partnership for development at present but also building a dynamic partnership for the years to come. The partnership will need to evolve with the changing global economic environment and adjust to the unified and universal nature of a post-2015 development agenda. Notwithstanding the present climate of economic austerity in major donor countries, the global partnership for development needs to be renewed in a way that matches the transformative ambition of the post-2015 development agenda.

C. How a renewed global partnership for development could work in practice after 2015

61. A renewed global partnership for development must build on ODA as a vital source of development financing and advance efforts to meet the commitment of realizing the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as ODA, as set out above (see section II). Further improving ODA quality must be seen as part and parcel of the effort on the part of a renewed global partnership to maximize the development impact of aid (see section III).

62. As countries become less aid dependent, a renewed global partnership for development should enable them to mobilize other sources of development finance in order to move beyond the current Millennium Development Goals agenda, to fight the root causes of poverty and to address its multiple dimensions. As countries

increasingly rely on a diverse mix of development finance, this reliance puts an even higher premium on policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies as a driver of development progress.

63. Countries at all stages of development will need to redouble their efforts to transition towards sustainable development. ODA will remain an important source for financing the transition, especially in least developed and other low-income countries. The need, however, is not only for finance but also for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building aspects of ODA and technology transfer, which, when well aligned with countries' needs, carry great potential. These aspects can complement private investment or help redirect it to areas that struggle to attract private investment.

64. In addition, stable and predictable resources will be needed for provisioning regional and global public goods. A renewed global partnership for development needs to galvanize political support for innovative sources of development finance and provide incentives for institutional investors to make long-term infrastructure investments. Action on both fronts will require a stable international financial system and more equitable economic governance.

65. Governments will be in control in negotiating the renewed global partnership for development. But Governments alone cannot deliver the needed transformation. Involving the breadth of actors in its design, implementation and monitoring will be essential. The roles of different actors should be clearly defined and different responsibilities and capabilities should be recognized. Providing ground rules and incentives for the diverse set of actors — and enabling them to apply their respective strengths — will be critical to the successful implementation of a post-2015 development agenda.

66. Effective, innovative and accountable multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance implementation can serve as an important complement to a renewed global partnership for development. Such partnerships, including several recent initiatives launched under the auspices of the United Nations, have shown great potential. By engaging a broad set of actors, including from the private sector, they can strengthen advocacy, develop targeted and innovative solutions, and mobilize additional resources. To maximize development impact, it is critical to promote coherence across partnerships, avoid the establishment of parallel structures and ensure that partnerships are aligned with countries' priorities.

67. It is important to recognize that multi-stakeholder partnerships cannot together substitute for a renewed global partnership for development, which will provide an overarching framework, addressing also the systemic issues. A renewed global partnership for development should provide the framework necessary for individual multi-stakeholder partnerships to operate successfully.

VI. Strengthening mutual accountability and availability of user-friendly information

68. Greater mutual accountability for development cooperation at all levels and greater transparency can support delivery on commitments and progress towards achieving results in sustainable development for people by incentivizing and producing mutual trust and positive changes in behaviour among the various actors

in international development cooperation. A global monitoring and accountability framework after 2015, for all types of development cooperation, can serve to assess and stimulate progress, identify accountability gaps and direct capacity support where it is needed most.

A. Mutual accountability

69. In international development cooperation, accountability serves primarily to support engagement and implementation by encouraging delivery on voluntary commitments and progress towards sustainable development results.[37] Accountability has the potential to serve as an overarching principle and technical tool that can help bring actors together on a level playing field to improve the management and targeting of their efforts. This is particularly important as the landscape of development cooperation actors, approaches and modalities continues to diversify.

70. Accountability for development cooperation is rooted in the Monterrey Consensus and has evolved since it was issued. Member States and other stakeholders agreed at the 2008 Development Cooperation Forum that the Forum should play a key role as an international mutual accountability mechanism to draw together analysis of progress in national- and global-level mutual accountability processes, and thereby contribute to holding donors and programme countries to account. The 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals reaffirmed the importance of mutual accountability to honour commitments by developed and developing countries and thereby accelerate progress to achieve the goals.

71. The 2013-2014 Development Cooperation Forum global accountability survey shows a moderate increase in behavioural changes stimulated by national mutual accountability mechanisms.[38] For example, some countries reported better alignment of donor programmes with national development priorities and commitment from providers to report on their activities in information platforms. In practice, mutual accountability remains focused on recipient Governments, with only limited impact so far on provider behaviour.

72. Recipient countries reported several implementation challenges, such as agreeing on targets for individual providers, including on gender equality; tracking disaggregated expenditure and results; and securing sufficient investment in mutual accountability capacity at the local level. Road maps for developing or strengthening mutual accountability exist in many countries, but they require long-term support and dedicated funding. Evidence shows that a key to progress is Government leadership. Equally critical is provider investment in the institutional capacity needed to examine or scrutinize processes and results from development cooperation. In this regard, key areas include staffing, high-quality country

[37] José Antonio Ocampo and Natalie Gómez Arteaga, "Accountability for development cooperation", background study for the Development Cooperation Forum Germany High-level Symposium, March 2014.

[38] A national mutual accountability mechanism is considered functional if a country has in place an agreed aid or partnership policy, annual targets for effective development cooperation, joint regular reviews of progress towards achieving targets, discussion of reviews in coordination forums that involve all stakeholders and a process to publish findings of such exercises.

frameworks and oversight bodies, such as parliaments and audit and evaluation institutions.

73. The growing diversity of providers suggests opportunities to capture the effectiveness of development cooperation beyond ODA in aid or partnership policies and in reviews of progress towards achieving targets for effective development cooperation. National aid or partnership policies provide a framework to ensure that ODA is properly integrated in and linked to the Government's management of its own budget, to hold providers accountable and to coordinate and monitor off-budget flows. The number of countries with such policies has increased considerably, from 39 in 2011 to at least 47 in 2013, mainly in Africa.[39]

74. Multiple regional and global mechanisms aim to promote accountability in development cooperation — from independent "spotlights" to multi-stakeholder initiatives and intergovernmental arrangements. Such mechanisms demonstrate efforts to address knowledge gaps, for example, by balancing the sources and analysis of information, representing different actors and providing sufficiently frequent assessments.

75. External evaluations suggest that global and regional mechanisms remain insufficiently used at the country level, let alone aimed explicitly to reinforce country-level mutual accountability. The division of labour needs to be clarified so as to consolidate such mechanisms and ensure better linkages and increased cooperation. Engagement of parliaments and civil society must be strengthened as complements to domestic social accountability in both developing and developed countries.

B. Managing development cooperation information

76. Effective mutual accountability requires better availability of comprehensive, fully accessible and user-friendly information on development cooperation flows, implementation and results at all levels. Data needs to be disaggregated sufficiently for different purposes. New technologies to make data collection easier, participative and accessible should be exploited.

77. In half of the countries surveyed for the Development Cooperation Forum in 2013-2014, mutual accountability has triggered demand for development cooperation information, mainly used by Government agencies and providers. Most Governments surveyed have formal systems for tracking ODA information at least annually, with a focus on current and future disbursement. The tracking of gender-disaggregated expenditure and results remains weak.

78. Global and regional initiatives to collect and make available development cooperation information are dominated by provider concerns. Despite increased efforts to balance sourcing, the data continues to be drawn mainly from provider sources and is not always aligned with national classification systems used in programme countries. The information is used primarily by Northern-based academia and civil society for the analysis of trends and provider comparisons.

[39] Angela Bester, "Third global accountability survey on mutual accountability", background study for the Development Cooperation Forum Germany High-level Symposium, March 2014.

C. Towards a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation after 2015

79. There is no one approach to accountability for development cooperation commitments and no "one-size-fits-all". A primary or basic, well-structured and fully recognized global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation can draw together analysis of progress in mutual accountability processes at all levels and provide incentives to mobilize all Member States and other actors to become engaged, with the promise of lasting results in poverty eradication and sustainable development as the most powerful motivation. Such a framework or architecture should be simple in design and have the following among its key features:

- Provide adequate policy space and flexibility for all actors to become engaged so as to share knowledge and progress on quantity- and quality-related commitments, taking into account their different capacities and responsibilities
- Build on the evidence base from existing accountability mechanisms at the global, regional, national and local levels to support good quality decisions and effective results
- Use stronger modalities of horizontal accountability, such as peer reviews and mutual accountability, to move beyond monitoring and surveillance
- Promote accountability for commitments and results in a way that does not overburden already stretched development cooperation teams on the ground
- Ensure that all stakeholders are fully capacitated to engage in robust and integrated consultative processes, with parliaments at the centre of national accountability mechanisms
- Serve as an integral part of the monitoring and accountability of the broader post-2015 development agenda, being intrinsically linked to the global partnership for development, global enabling environment and systemic issues
- Promote greater policy coordination and policy coherence for development for better results.

VII. Key messages and recommendations

80. In reviewing trends and progress in development cooperation, the present report sets out the following key messages and recommendations.

81. While ODA will remain crucial, its use will have to be adapted to meet new demands and respond to a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda. Progress towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent ODA to gross national income needs to be accelerated.

82. Developing countries will all need continued support in efforts to eradicate poverty and transition to sustainable development. The type of support should be flexible and country-specific.

83. More ODA should be provided to support successful efforts to mobilize domestic resources, build productive capacity and incentivize private investment in

countries and sectors otherwise deemed to be too risky or unprofitable. Given the potential, yet shortcomings, of leveraging or blending public and private sources to generate additional resources, efforts are needed to ensure sufficient development impact and full transparency, accountability and country ownership of this modality.

84. The increasing reliance of countries on a diverse mix of development finance puts an even higher premium on policy coherence between aid and non-aid policies and an enabling domestic and international environment as determining factors for development progress.

85. International public finance used for global public goods is conceptually different from ODA, though it may entail large developmental benefits for developing countries. Financing flows for global public goods should be accounted for separately and accurately, and it should be ensured that these are additional to existing commitments.

86. Current commitments on the quality and effectiveness of ODA should be met. More efforts are needed to reduce conditionalities, optimize intercountry allocation, ensure flexibility to respond to shocks, increase concessionality and reduce fragmentation of ODA.

87. Voluntary monitoring should be extended to these ODA quality principles, complementing the progress report of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and reflected in accountability and transparency initiatives tracking ODA performance. Tracking systems to identify commitments to direct investments in women and girls and gender-sensitive monitoring and accountability need to be strengthened and underpinned by rigorous impact evaluations.

88. Continued global policy dialogue and effective monitoring are needed for intensified collective action on the effectiveness of development cooperation. The effectiveness principles of different players should also be explored as input to a renewed global partnership for development. Despite differences on technical aspects, there are common strands on national ownership, on trust-based, inclusive partnerships and on focusing on long-term, cost-effective development impact. As for the private sector, the impact of its engagement in development needs to be assessed regularly in future.

89. Southern partners have stressed the importance of strengthening evaluation of the achievements and development impact of South-South cooperation projects. Some have suggested to rethink the framing of SSC approaches, modalities and issues by developing a lexicon suited to SSC.

90. The principles, approaches, features and practices of South-South cooperation can inform global efforts to orient future development cooperation. Greater availability and quality of information on SSC is needed to meet the strong demand for peer-learning among the countries of the South. Multilateral institutions and the Development Cooperation Forum are expected to play a more active role in facilitation of such learning.

91. A transformative post-2015 development agenda must be matched by a different scale and scope of international support. The Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development can serve as a starting point for renewing the global partnership for development, as a dynamic partnership that

can adjust to evolving needs and the changing macroeconomic environment in the coming years. Such a partnership should bring together the Monterrey and Rio tracks on financing for development and means of implementation.

92. While Governments should take the lead in renewing the global partnership for development, the breadth of development actors must be engaged from the outset in its design and implementation. The roles of the different actors, given their different responsibilities and capabilities, should be clearly defined. A renewed global partnership for development should help support and stimulate multi-stakeholder partnerships which advance implementation by engaging different stakeholders and enabling them to apply their respective strengths.

93. In development cooperation, accountability serves to ensure delivery on commitments and progress towards the sustainability of development results. It can also bring actors together to improve management and the targeting of their efforts. National mutual accountability for ODA remains, in practice, more focused on recipient Governments, with only limited impact so far on provider behaviour. Yet, there is growing consensus that mutual accountability can improve ODA effectiveness by freeing up resources and capacities through cost-effective modalities and predictable funding with limited conditionality.

94. While it is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach, a primary or basic global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation, including Millennium Development Goal 8 successor arrangements, can draw together analysis on progress at all levels and provide the right incentives to mobilize all actors to become engaged, with the promise of lasting results in poverty eradication and sustainable development as the most powerful motivation.

95. Such a global monitoring and accountability framework for development cooperation should function as an integral part of the monitoring and accountability of the broader post-2015 development agenda. It should be intrinsically linked to a renewed global partnership for development, global enabling environment and systemic issues.

96. The 2012-2014 cycle of the Development Cooperation Forum has stood out for the candid discussions on the ways in which a renewed global partnership could work in practice and on the implications of a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda for the future of development cooperation. The discussions have revealed readiness among the broad range of stakeholders to look anew at the fundamentals of development cooperation, suggesting that space is opening up for mobilizing international support that matches the ambition of a transformative post-2015 development agenda. The Forum provides an appropriate platform for furthering these discussions as part of a coherent global architecture for development cooperation.

United Nations E/2014/78

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2014

Original: English

2014 session
Item 16 (i) of the provisional agenda*
Economic and environmental questions: cartography

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-eighth session

(New York, 28 April-2 May 2014)

Summary

The twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was held at United Nations Headquarters from 28 April to 2 May 2014, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2013/257.

The present report describes the activities of the session and presents the major findings of the Group of Experts, focusing primarily on the importance of its work in supporting United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the essential assistance it continues to afford Member States in the geographical information field and related cartographic areas.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-53894 (E) 060614

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	3
	A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council	3
	B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	4
II.	Items considered by the Group of Experts	11
III.	Provisional agenda, venue and dates of the twenty-ninth session	19
IV.	Adoption of the report	20
V.	Organization of the session	20
Annex		
	List of participating divisions	24

I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session, and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session[1]

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session (E/2014/78);

(b) Decides that the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts shall be held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 April 2016;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to render to the Group of Experts at its twenty-ninth session the necessary assistance, including necessary logistical support, interpretation into all six official languages and other essential resources required to guarantee its success;

(d) Approves the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

1. Adoption of the agenda and of the provisional programme of work.
2. Report of the Chair.
3. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts.
4. Reports of the divisions.
5. Report of the liaison officers and international organizations.
6. Activities relating to the Task Team for Africa.
7. Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation.
8. Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.
9. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
10. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
11. Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems.

[1] See para. 60 for the programme budget implications.

12. Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names.

13. Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.

14. Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms.

15. Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation.

16. Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.

17. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use.

18. Other toponymic issues.

19. Preparation for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

20. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

21. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

22. Adoption of the report.

Draft decision II
Amendment to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the amendment to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names proposed by the Group of Experts,[2] whereby rule 37 is replaced with the following text:

"XII. Public meetings

Rule 37

The meetings of the Group of Experts and meetings of its working groups shall be in public, unless it decides otherwise."

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Group of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

28/101
Report of the Chair

The Group of Experts took note of the report of the Chair.

28/102
Report of the Secretariat of the Group of Experts

The Group of Experts took note of the report of the secretariat.

[2] See para. 61 below.

28/103
Reports of the divisions

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports submitted by 17 of the 24 geographical/linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts and expressed appreciation for the excellent summary of the reports;

(b) Emphasized that the divisional reports reflected considerable progress in the field of geographical names standardization; that some divisions reported impressive achievements, while others reported challenges; and that political and economic problems still hampered success in some divisions;

(c) Encouraged experts to learn from the experiences presented in the 17 divisional reports;

(d) Noted that divisional reports varied considerably in their structure, length and content: some divisions reported on a variety of divisional activities such as meetings, websites and other joint projects, while others concentrated on country-based information;

(e) Acknowledged that the variation in reports reflected the fact that the divisions face a variety of challenges and resources constraints;

(f) Considered the development and use of a template for divisional reports for future sessions and acknowledged that the use of such a template should be voluntary.

28/104
Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the four written reports and one oral report originating from four liaison officers and international organizations;

(b) Noted that reports had not been received from all liaison officers;

(c) Recognized that it is important to maintain the relationship between the Group of Experts and these partners;

(d) Agreed that cooperation and joint participation in future events, such as the International Map Year, would be strongly encouraged.

28/105
Report of the Task Team for Africa

The Group of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report from the coordinator of the Task Team for Africa;

(b) Recognized that the complex situation in Africa requires a concerted effort to help achieve the objectives of the Group of Experts;

(c) Urged the Task Team for Africa to maintain its efforts to raise awareness of the importance of geographical names, and encouraged African

nations to continue their programme of work, as described in the Task Team's report.

28/106
Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports presented under this agenda item;

(b) Welcomed the efforts of the Working Group to improve the implementation of resolutions on national standardization of geographical names programmes and increase the effectiveness of the activities of the Group of Experts towards these ends;

(c) Expressed appreciation for the Working Group's important programme of work, including its preparation and analysis of session and conference evaluation surveys, its compiling and archiving of working papers and the creation and maintenance of the database of resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names;

(d) Also expressed appreciation for the Working Group's involvement in encouraging experts to refer to resolutions through the use of documentation guidelines;

(e) Noted the progress made by individual countries with respect to legislation, geographical names committees and academic societies, as well as the challenges to implementing institutional frameworks;

(f) Recognized the proposal to create an Africa North Division and urged the parties involved to consult one another prior to its potential establishment at the twenty-ninth session.

28/107
Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports presented under this agenda item;

(b) Thanked the Working Group for its valuable work over the past years;

(c) Stressed that the main activity of the Working Group is to ensure that there will be qualified staff to engage in toponymic activities in the future;

(d) Expressed its appreciation for the support received from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat for past training courses, and requested the Statistics Division to support future training activities;

(e) Also expressed its appreciation for the cooperation with the Cartography Working Group of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, which acts as a partner in the organization of toponymy courses in Latin America;

(f) Noted that the nature of the toponymical tasks of topographers and cartographers has evolved from names collection and processing to the maintenance of databases and web services and that maintaining data currency will increasingly require the cooperation of the general public through crowd-sourcing techniques, and in that context, encouraged additional outreach activities regarding geographical names.

28/108
Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports and oral statement presented under this agenda item;

(b) Thanked the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers for the high level of interest in its area of responsibility, as evidenced by the large number of reports;

(c) Noted that the majority of the reports addressed national activities and that two dealt with multinational efforts, all of which showed the importance of the development of mechanisms to store, visualize and disseminate geographical names information;

(d) Identified a trend of activities focusing on the establishment of multifunctional or multiple use geographical names databases, services and applications that provide geographical names data for a variety of purposes;

(e) Noted that several reports reflected an encouraging trend of making toponymic data freely available via the Internet;

(f) Recognized the use of geographic information systems and Web GIS in the linking to feature data;

(g) Acknowledged the increasing efforts permitting the integration of geographical names data into spatial data infrastructures and the increasing importance of the utilization of volunteered geographic information and crowd-sourced data;

(h) Noted that these very positive trends were fully in line with resolution VIII/6 of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, which recommended better integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures, and that the importance of establishing and providing reliable and standardized geographical names had been recognized by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as an essential part of geospatial information management;

(i) Observed that 16 United Nations resolutions deal with either gazetteers or automated data processing/digital data;

(j) Urged the Working Group to continue its important work, particularly in re-examining its web discussion forums;

(k) Recommended that the Working Group collect and publish examples, best practices and commonly shared issues, as provided by the countries/divisions, on the website of the Group of Experts;

(l) Agreed that these issues will be forwarded to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and will be considered in conjunction with the secretariat of the Group of Experts.

28/109
Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports presented under this agenda item;

(b) Thanked the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology for its activities;

(c) Urged the Working Group to continue its important work, particularly in advancing the digital and online presence of the Group of Experts through its work on the terminology database currently under development;

(d) Encouraged the Working Group to initiate a revision of the Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, starting with a meeting in 2015;

(e) Expressed support for the transition of the Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names from paper to digital form.

28/110
Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports presented under this agenda item;

(b) Acknowledged with satisfaction the growing number of countries with non-Roman-script languages having the United Nations-approved systems of romanization for geographical names;

(c) Expressed appreciation for the steps taken by those countries to implement the approved systems both in the donor countries and on an international level;

(d) Stressed the importance of the reversibility, if possible, of any proposed system;

(e) Urged the countries with non-Roman-script languages not yet having United Nations-approved systems to devise, implement and submit their national systems of romanization for approval at the next United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names;

(f) Requested the countries where the United Nations-approved systems have either changed or are no longer implemented, to submit the new systems for consideration and subsequent approval;

(g) Noted that information on the Working Group's activities as well as the systems of romanization were available on the Working Group's website, which is periodically updated;

(h) Supported continuing the liaison between the Working Group and international bodies dealing with similar topics, such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and Working Group 3 of ISO Technical Committee 46;

(i) Urged the working group to continue its efforts in contacting national authorities in matters related to romanization and monitoring the situation with romanization worldwide.

28/111
Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names

The Group of Experts:

(a) Noted the report of the Working Group and the unofficial "working version" list of country names;

(b) Commended the Working Group members, the United Nations terminology team and other experts for their contribution in reviewing and correcting the new version of the Group of Experts list of country names;

(c) Thanked the Working Group for its ongoing work in maintaining and improving the list of country names.

28/112
Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

The Group of Experts:

(a) Noted the reports presented under this agenda item;

(b) Thanked the Working Group on Publicity and Funding for the recent and upcoming activities;

(c) Encouraged the Working Group to continue its excellent work, particularly in advancing the digital presence of the Group of Experts through an updated media kit, the Group of Experts website and Wikipedia presence, and its efforts to identify financial support for training participation and attendance at sessions of the Group of Experts;

(d) Supported the establishment of an International Geographical Names Day in 2017 to highlight the importance and relevance of the Group of Experts and the standardization of geographical names;

(e) Agreed that this working group would be responsible for moving this recommendation forward.

28/113
Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports submitted under this agenda item, and commended the very thorough efforts made in defining the endonym/exonym divide and in developing new definitions;

(b) Noted the difficulties encountered in agreeing on new definitions owing to tension between theoretical and practice-oriented approaches;

(c) Agreed to let the Working Group have a last attempt at agreeing on new definitions at its meeting in Hermagor, Austria in June 2014;

(d) Supported the Working Group's future focus on the definition of criteria for the use of exonyms;

(e) Welcomed the documenting of the endonym/exonym divide in four volumes, which would allow for the discussion to be taken up again in the future;

(f) Applauded the continued publication of well-elaborated exonym gazetteers, noting that new gazetteers had been presented at the current session.

28/114
Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the report that provided a case study highlighting the importance of understanding the effects of pronunciation variations;

(b) Thanked the Working Group for its continued activities;

(c) Recognized that the scope of work of the Working Group on Pronunciation could affect the work of the Working Groups on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and Romanization Systems and might require participation and contributions from those Working Groups;

(d) Welcomed the new Convenor of the Working Group, Tjeerd Tichelaar.

28/115
Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports and oral statement submitted under this agenda item;

(b) Thanked the Working Group for its ongoing efforts;

(c) Noted the benefits of making culturally and historically significant data available;

(d) Encouraged the further discussion of the conflict between official and private naming and the challenge to standardization;

(e) Offered to provide, as requested, best practices and experiences in handling sensitive naming situations, such as street naming;

(f) Welcomed the new Co-Convenors, Annette Torensjö and Leif Nilsson, to be assisted by a steering group of six experts;

28/116
Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors for international use

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports submitted under this agenda item and welcomed the recent updates to the inventory of toponymic guidelines;

(b) Thanked the former Coordinator, who unfortunately needed to resign, for his efforts in leading this important programme;

(c) Recommended that Member States that had not yet done so prepare toponymic guidelines in accordance with resolution IV/4;

(d) Recommended that Member States regularly update existing toponymic guidelines in order to keep them current;

(e) Welcomed the new Coordinator, Gerhard Rampl.

28/117
Other toponymic issues

The Group of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports submitted under this agenda item;

(b) Urged national standardization authorities to continue their critical work and to share their experiences in future sessions, especially regarding data quality;

(c) Noted the apparent challenge posed by decreasing support for and declining status of onomastics and related research;

(d) Encouraged the preparation of a resolution for the next Conference to emphasize the importance of place names research.

II. Items considered by the Group of Experts

A. Report of the Chair

3. The Group of Experts considered item 2 of its agenda at its 1st and 8th meetings, on 28 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. It had before it the report of the Chair contained in document GEGN/28/10, which was presented by the Chair.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

4. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/101).

B. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts

5. The Group of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st and 8th meetings, on 28 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. It had before it the report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts contained in document GEGN/28/11. At its 1st meeting, the Group of Experts heard an introductory statement by a representative of the secretariat. An expert from the United States/Canada Division made a statement.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

6. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/102).

C. Reports of the divisions

7. The Group of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 1st and 8th meetings, on 28 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. At its 1st meeting, it had before it, for presentation, working paper W.P.77/4, and for information, working papers W.P.3/4, W.P.9/4, W.P.18/4, W.P.24/4, W.P.32/4, W.P.36/4, W.P.37/4, W.P.58/4, W.P.59/4, W.P.62/4, W.P.63/4, W.P.65/4, W.P.66/4, W.P.69/4, W.P.70/4, W.P.74/4 and W.P.75/4.

8. Also at the 1st meeting, the Group of Experts heard an overview statement from the expert from the Norden Division. The Chair and the experts from the United States/Canada Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division and the Arabic Division made comments or raised questions; and the expert from the Norden Division summarized the discussion on the item.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

9. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/103).

D. Report of the liaison officers and international organizations

10. The Group of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 2nd and 8th meetings, on 28 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. At its 2nd meeting, it had before it working papers W.P.6/5, W.P.34/5, W.P.72/5 and W.P.76/5. For information under this item, the Group of Experts had before document GEGN/28/7.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on 28 April, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the liaison officers of the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and the International Cartographic Association.

12. At the same meeting, the Chair and experts from the Norden Division, the Arabic Division, the Dutch-and German-speaking Division, the United States/Canada Division and the Africa South Division made statements or raised questions, and the Chair summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

13. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/104).

E. Report of the Task Team for Africa

14. The Group of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 2nd and 8th meetings, on 28 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. At its 2nd meeting, the Group of Experts had before it working paper W.P.29/6. At the same meeting, the Group of experts heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Task Team for Africa. The Chair, the Coordinator and the experts from the Africa Central Division, the Arabic Division and the Africa East Division made comments or raised questions, and the Chair summarized the discussion on the item.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

15. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/105).

F. Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

16. The Group of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 8th meetings, on 28 and 29 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. At its 2nd meeting, the Group of Experts had before it, for presentation, working papers W.P.27/7, W.P.31/7, W.P.41/7, W.P.42/7, W.P.46/7, W.P.47/7, W.P.50/7, W.P.52/7, W.P.55/7 and W.P.71/7, and for information, documents GEGN/28/8 and GEGN/28/9.

17. Also at the 2nd meeting, on 28 April, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the Convenor of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. Presentations were also made by the experts from the United States/Canada Division, the Asia East Division (other than China), the Arabic Division, the Norden Division and the Africa West Division. The Chair, the Convenor and the experts from the Baltic Division, the United States/Canada Division, the Norden Division, the Africa South Division, the Arabic Division and the Africa Central Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded.

18. At the 3rd meeting, on 29 April, the Group of Experts heard presentations by experts from the Arabic Division, the Norden Division and the Asia East Division (other than China). The Chair, the Convenor and experts from the Arabic Division, the Norden Division, the China Division and the United States/Canada Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion on the item.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

19. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/106).

G. Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

20. The Group of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 8th meetings, on 29 April and 2 May 2014. At its 3rd meeting, it had before it working papers W.P.33/8, W.P.40/8, W.P.53/8 and W.P.67/8.

21. At the same meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy. The Convenor and experts from the Africa East Division, the Africa Central Division, the Africa South Division, the Arabic Division, the Norden Division, the United States/Canada Division and the East Central and South-East Europe Division made comments and raised questions, to which the Convenor responded.

22. At its 4th meeting, heard presentations by experts from the Arabic Division, the Asia East Division (other than China) and the United States/Canada Division. The Chair, the Convenor and experts from those divisions made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

23. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/107).

H. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

24. The Group of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 8th meetings, on 29 and 30 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. For its consideration of the item, it had before it, for presentation, working papers W.P.1/9, W.P.5/9, W.P.7/9, W.P.12/9, W.P.15/9, W.P.16/9, W.P.19/9, W.P.20/9, W.P.21/9, W.P.22/9, W.P.45/9, W.P.48/9, W.P.49/9, W.P.54/9, W.P.56/9 and W.P.73/9, and for information, working papers W.P.2/9 and W.P.79/9.

25. At the 4th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and by experts from the Asia East Division (other than China), the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic), the Arabic Division, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and the Norden Division. The Chair, the Convenor and experts from the Arabic Division, the Asia South-East Division, the Africa South Division, the United States/Canada Division, the Norden Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division and the French-speaking Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded.

26. At the 5th meeting, heard presentations by experts from the Asia East Division (other than China), the United States/Canada Division, the East Central and South-East Europe Division and the Latin American Division. The Convenor and experts from the Arabic Division, the Africa South Division, the Norden Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division, the Baltic Division and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion on the item.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

27. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/108).

I. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

28. The Group of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 5th and 8th meetings, on 30 April and 2 May 2014, respectively. For its consideration of this item, the Group of Experts had before it for presentation working papers W.P.38/10 and W.P.44/10.

29. At the 5th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology and an expert from the East Central and South-East Europe Division. The Convenor and experts from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, the Arabic Division and the Norden Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

30. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/109).

J. Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems

31. The Group of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 5th, 6th and 8th meetings, on 30 April and 2 May 2014. For its consideration of this item, it had before it for presentation working papers W.P.8/11 and W.P.4/11.

32. At its 5th meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by an expert from the Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic) and the Convenor made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded.

33. At its 6th meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group. The Convenor and experts from the China Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

34. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/110).

K. Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names

35. The Group of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 6th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working paper W.P.61/12, and for information, working paper W.P.60/12.

36. At its 6th meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by an expert from the United States/Canada Division, on which the experts from the East Central

and South-East Europe Division and the Romano-Hellenic Division made comments.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

37. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/111).

L. Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding

38. The Group of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 6th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working paper W.P.25/13 and a related document, W.P.35/13.

39. At the same meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and an expert from the French-speaking Division. The Convenor, the Chair and experts from the Africa East Division, the Arabic Division, the Asia East Division, the Africa South Division, the Norden Division, the China Division, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and the United States/Canada Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

40. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/112).

M. Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms

41. The Group of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 6th, 7th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working paper W.P.13/14 and the related documents W.P.11/14, W.P.26/14 and W.P.64/14.

42. At the 6th meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by the Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms. The Convenor and experts form the Norden Division and the Arabic Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded.

43. At the 7th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by the representatives of the Norden Division and the East Central and South-East Europe Division. The Convenor made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Convenor then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

44. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/113).

N. Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation

45. The Group of Experts considered item 15 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working paper W.P.10/15.

46. At its 7th meeting, the Group of Experts heard a presentation by an expert from the China Division. The Chair and experts from the Baltic Division, the Africa South Division, the Arabic Division and the Norden Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded. The Chair then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

47. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/114).

O. Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names and Cultural Heritage

48. The Group of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation under this item, working papers W.P.17/16 and WP.68/16, and for information, working paper W.P.57/16.

49. At its 7th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by experts from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, the Norden Division and the Asia South-East Division. The expert from the United States/Canada Division made a statement. The Chair and experts from the Romano-Hellenic Division, the Asia East Division (other than China), the Baltic Division, the United States/Canada Division, the China Division, the Africa South Division, the Asia South-East Division and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Chair then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

50. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs, as orally amended (see sect. I.B, decision 28/115).

P. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors for international use

51. The Group of Experts considered item 17 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working papers W.P.14/17, W.P.23/17, W.P.28/17 and W.P.78/17.

52. At its 7th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by experts from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, the Norden Division and the Africa East Division. At the same meeting, the Chair and experts from the United States/Canada Division and the Dutch- and German-speaking Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. An expert from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division was announced as the next Convenor of the Working Group on Toponymic Guidelines. The Chair then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

53. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/116).

Q. Other toponymic issues

54. The Group of Experts considered item 18 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings. It had before it, for presentation, working papers W.P.39/18, W.P.43/18 and W.P.51/18.

55. At its 7th meeting, the Group of Experts heard presentations by experts from the Portuguese-speaking Division, the Norden Division and the Asia East Division (other than China). The Chair, experts from the United Kingdom Division, the Asia South-East Division, the Norden Division, the Asia East Division (other than China) and the Arabic Division, as well as representatives of the Google Corporation, made comments and raised questions, to which the presenters responded. The Chair then summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

56. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted a draft decision submitted by the Rapporteurs (see sect. I.B, decision 28/117).

R. Preparation for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

57. The Group of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda at its 8th meeting. It had before it, for information, the provisional agenda for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, contained in document GEGN/28/3, which had been adopted at the Tenth Conference. The Chair brought the document to the attention of the Group of Experts.

S. Special presentations

58. During the session, the Group of Experts heard the following special presentations:

(a) "The power of location: trends in geographic information systems", delivered at the 3rd meeting by the representative of the Environmental Systems Research Institute. The Chair and experts from the Arabic Division, the Africa South Division, the Norden Division and the Africa Central Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded;

(b) "Renewing the system for collecting and storing place names in Norway", delivered at the 4th meeting by an expert from the Norden Division. The Chair and experts from the Africa East Division, the Africa South Division, the Norden Division, the Arabic Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division and the United States/Canada Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded;

(c) "Geospatial information for United Nations operations", delivered at the 5th meeting by a representative of the Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat. The Chair and experts from the Arabic Division, the Africa South Division, the Africa Central Division, the French-speaking Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division, the Norden Division and the United Kingdom Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded;

(d) "The relevance and place of geographical names within the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management", delivered at the 6th meeting by a representative of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Chair and experts from the United Nations/ Canada Division, Dutch- and German-speaking Division, Norden Division, Arabic Division, Africa Central Division and the East Central and South-eats Europe Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded;

(e) "Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information", delivered at the 7th meeting by a representative of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Chair and experts from the Arabic Division, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, the Asia East Division (other than China), the Asia South-East Division, the Africa South Division and the International Cartographic Association made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded;

(f) "Terminology at the United Nations", delivered at the 8th meeting by a representative of the Terminology and Reference Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Chair and experts from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, the China Division, the United States/ Canada Division and the Arabic Division made comments and raised questions, to which the presenter responded.

III. Provisional agenda, venue and dates of the twenty-ninth session

59. The Group of Experts considered item 20 of its agenda at its 8th meeting. It had before it draft decisions entitled "Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session" (GEGN/28/L.1) and "Amendment to the rules of procedure of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names" (GEGN/28/L.2).

60. At the same meeting, an expert from the Romano-Hellenic Division made a comment and raised a question and the Acting Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs made a statement. The Secretary read an oral statement, on behalf of the Secretary-General, regarding the programme budget implications of draft decision GEGN/28/L.1.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

61. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May 2014, the Group of Experts adopted draft decisions GEGN/28/L.1 and GEGN/28/ L.2 (see sect. I.A).

IV. Adoption of the report

62. The Group of Experts considered item 21 of its agenda at its 8th meeting. It had before it the draft report on its twenty-eighth session (GEGN/28/L.3), together with an informal paper containing draft conclusions, recommendations and decisions of the session, both of which were introduced by the Rapporteurs.

63. At the same meeting, the Chair, the Rapporteurs and experts from the United States/Canada Division, the Asia East Division (other than China), the Asia South-East Division, the East Central and South-East Europe Division, the Baltic Division, the United Kingdom Division, the Romano-Hellenic Division, the Dutch- and German-speaking Division and the Africa East Division made statements, in the course of which amendments to the draft report and informal paper were introduced.

Action taken by the Group of Experts

64. At its 8th meeting, on 2 May, the Group of Experts adopted the draft report on its twenty-eighth session, as orally amended, together with the draft conclusions, recommendations and decisions contained in the informal paper, and entrusted the Rapporteurs to finalize the report by reflecting the proceedings of the meeting.

V. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

65. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2013/257, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its twenty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 April to 2 May 2014. The Group of Experts held eight meetings, which were chaired by the Vice-Chairs, Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands) and Naima Friha (Tunisia), in the absence of the Chair, Bill Watt (Australia).

B. Attendance

66. The session was attended by 174 participants representing the geographic/linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts (see the annex the present report). The list of participants is contained in document GEGN/28/4.

C. Officers of the session

67. The Officers of the session were as follows:

Chair:
Bill Watt (Australia)

Vice-Chairs:
Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)
Naima Friha (Tunisia)

Rapporteurs:
Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)
Trent Palmer (United States of America)

For the names of the Chairs of the divisions, see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/divisions.html. The Officers of the working groups were:

Task Team for Africa

Convener:
Brahim Atoui

Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy

Convener:
Ferjan Ormeling

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Convener:
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Working Group on Toponymic Terminology

Convener:
Staffan Nyström

Working Group on Romanization Systems

Convener:
Peeter Päll

Working Group on Country Names

Convener:
Leo Dillon

Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Convener:
Peder Gammeltoft

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Convener:
Sungjae Choo

Working Group on Exonyms

Convener:
Peter Jordan

Working Group on Pronunciation

Convener:
Gerhard Rampl[3]

[3] Elected at the 7th meeting, on 1 May 2014.

Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Conveners:

Annette Torensjö
Leif Nilsson

D. Opening statements

68. On behalf of the Chair, Bill Watt (Australia), the Vice-Chair, Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), opened the twenty-eight session of the Group of Experts at the 1st meeting, on 28 April 2014.

69. In his opening remarks, the Chair summarized the main tasks ahead, including making the best use of current technologies to enhance the work of the Group of Experts.

70. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an opening statement summarizing the recent accomplishments and highlights of the work of the Group of Experts.

E. Adoption of the agenda

71. Also at the 1st meeting, the Group of Experts adopted its provisional agenda (GEGN/28/1) as orally amended, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and of the provisional programme of work.
2. Report of the Chair.
3. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts.
4. Reports of the divisions.
5. Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations.
6. Activities relating to the Task Team for Africa.
7. Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation.
8. Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.
9. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
10. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
11. Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems.
12. Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names.
13. Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.
14. Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms.
15. Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation.

16. Activities relating to the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage.

17. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors for international use.

18. Other toponymic issues.

19. Preparation for the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

20. Dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

21. Adoption of the report.

72. Also at the 1st meeting, the Group of Experts adopted its organization of work (GEGN/28/12).

F. Documentation

73. The documents before the Group of Experts at its twenty-eighth session are available at the website of the Statistics Division at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/ungegnSession28.html and at the PaperSmart Portal at http://papersmart.unmeetings.org/en/ecosoc/ungegn/twenty-eighth-session/agenda/.

Annex

List of participating divisions

Africa Central Division

Africa East Division

Africa South Division

Africa West Division

Arabic Division

Asia East Division (other than China)

Asia South-East Division

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

Baltic Division

Celtic Division

China Division

Dutch- and German-speaking Division

East Central and South-East Europe Division

Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)

French-speaking Division

Latin America Division

Norden Division

Pacific South-West Division

Portuguese-speaking Division

Romano-Hellenic Division

United Kingdom Division

United States of America/Canada Division

United Nations E/2014/79

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2014

Original: English

2014 session
Item 17 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Social and human rights questions: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Letter dated 15 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a note verbale dated 6 May 2014, addressed to you by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

(*Signed*) Tigran **Samvelian**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-53916 (E) 300514

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 15 May 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him about the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Republic of Armenia has constantly been committed to the aims of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Republic of Armenia is a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967. The Republic of Armenia is a Standing Committee observer.

The Republic of Armenia is strongly dedicated to improving the situation of and finding durable solutions to the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons at national and international levels, and in this regard has established an excellent level of cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in order to jointly promote priorities of those vulnerable groups both internationally and nationally.

The Republic of Armenia is ready to constructively cooperate with all members of the Executive Committee in order to find adequate and timely solutions to the challenges facing the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

To this end, the Government of the Republic of Armenia hopes that the Economic and Social Council will give favourable consideration to the present request and make a recommendation to the General Assembly to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee.

United Nations A/69/87-E/2014/80

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 May 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Item 107 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2014
Item 17 (d) of the provisional agenda**
Social and human rights questions: narcotic drugs

Outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/197, the report of the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

* A/69/50.
** E/2014/100.

V.14-02813 (E) 260514 270514

Please recycle

Report of the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Introduction

1. In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, it was decided that the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

2. At its reconvened fifty-third session, in 2010, the Commission adopted the annual report questionnaire for Member States to periodically report to the Commission on their efforts to fully implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

3. At its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2012/14 and Corr.1), which contained information based on the first round of responses provided by Member States to parts I and II of the annual report questionnaire. At its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, the Commission considered the second report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action (E/CN.7/2014/7), which contained information based on the second round of responses provided by Member States to parts I and II of the annual report questionnaire.

4. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission decided, in its resolution 56/12, that the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem should be held during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in 2014, for a period of two days, in addition to the five days usually scheduled for the regular sessions of the Commission in the first half of the year. It also decided that the high-level review should consist of a general debate on "Progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem" and round-table discussions on the three pillars of the Plan of Action. Also in that resolution, the Commission resolved that a brief joint ministerial statement should be issued at the conclusion of the

high-level review, identifying, on the basis of the review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, and that the outcome of the high-level review should be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration, in view of, inter alia, the special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

5. Intersessional meetings of the Commission and informal negotiations were held during the third quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 to draft the Joint Ministerial Statement to be adopted by Member States at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, taking into account, inter alia, the reports of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action mentioned in paragraph 3 above; the outcome of the thematic round-table discussions of the Commission at its fifty-third through fifty-sixth sessions; relevant studies and reports of UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and other relevant United Nations agencies; and other information related to the world drug problem from relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector.

6. The high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held on 13 and 14 March 2014. A total of 129 States participated in the segment.

7. During the high-level segment, Member States conducted a general debate on progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. At the same time, round-table discussions were held on the three pillars of the Plan of Action: (a) demand reduction; (b) supply reduction; and (c) international cooperation.

8. At the fourth meeting of the session, on 14 March 2014, the ministers and government representatives participating in the high-level segment adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement (see annex I).

9. The Chairs of the three round-table discussions presented a summary of the outcome of their respective discussions (see annex II).

10. More detailed information on the high-level segment, including the list of persons who addressed the general debate and the statements made following the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement, can be found in the report on the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2014/28).

Annex I

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

We, the Ministers and government representatives participating in the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna on 13 and 14 March 2014, gathering to undertake a midterm review of progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2009, and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Are fully aware* that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced and comprehensive approach to supply and demand reduction strategies, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

2. *Underscore* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[5] and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, welcome the efforts made by States parties to comply with the provisions and ensure the effective implementation of those conventions, and urge all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments;

3. *Reaffirm* our commitment to achieving the targets and goals, and implementing the provisions, set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action

---

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;[1]

4. *Reaffirm* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[6] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[7] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[8] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[9] the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[10] and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;[11]

5. *Have undertaken* a high-level midterm review[12] of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and recommit to effectively addressing the world drug problem;

6. *Recognize* that, 15 years after the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to address the world drug problem, notwithstanding the ever-increasing efforts and progress made by States, relevant international organizations and civil society, the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth, our most precious asset;

7. *Also recognize* that the world drug problem undermines sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions, including efforts to eradicate poverty, and threatens national security and the rule of law, and that drug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity and hopes of millions of people and their families and lead to the loss of human lives;

8. *Reaffirm* our determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity;

9. *Express deep concern* at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families in countering the world drug problem, and pay special tribute to the law enforcement and judicial personnel who have sacrificed their lives and to the health-care and civil society personnel who have dedicated themselves to addressing this phenomenon;

10. *Recognize* that many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and underscore the

---

[6] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.
[8] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.
[9] General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.
[10] A/58/124, sect. II.A.
[11] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.
[12] As defined in the Political Declaration of 2009 and reconfirmed in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12.

need to take these new trends into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

11. *Take note* of the ongoing discussions in some regions on how to address the world drug problem, in the light of the current situation and policies, and emphasize the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

12. *Also take note* of the ongoing process to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations, bearing in mind relevant aspects of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, together with efforts of Member States in the implementation of the objectives and goals thereof;

13. *Reaffirm* the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, also reaffirm our support and appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, and further reaffirm the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

14. *Call for* continued cooperation between Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, including opiates, for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing their diversion into illicit channels, pursuant to the international drug control conventions, and to provide recommendations on the scheduling of substances;

15. *Welcome* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, note with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and note that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

16. *Also welcome* the decision of the General Assembly[13] to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem, following the present high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and look forward to the proposals to be submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, issuing from its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions;

[13] General Assembly resolution 67/193.

General achievements

17. *Note* that, based on the information available and reported by Member States, the global illicit supply and demand of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control have remained largely stable during the past five years, while trends in drug supply and demand have been unequal across regions and countries and according to drug type,[14] and acknowledge that appropriate policies and measures aimed at more efficient use of limited resources are necessary to effectively address the world drug problem;

18. *Also note* that several Member States in different parts of the world have achieved tangible and measurable progress in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community;

19. *Acknowledge* that Member States have achieved tangible progress in countering the world drug problem with regard to improved understanding of the problem, the elaboration and implementation of national strategies to tackle the problem in an increasing number of countries, capacity-building initiatives for national competent authorities, the review and updating of legal frameworks, the creation and strengthening of capacities within law enforcement and health institutions, and improved mechanisms for international cooperation;

20. *Take note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session,[15] the *World Drug Report 2013*[16] of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board,[17] and call upon Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative[18] and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Heart of Asia initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering drug trafficking with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

21. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, addressing supply, demand and the diversion of precursor chemicals, undertaken by regional organizations and transregional initiatives such as the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Triangular Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other relevant subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, including the counter-narcotics strategy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the period 2011-2016, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the

[14] See *World Drug Report 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6).

[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 8* (E/2013/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6.

[17] E/INCB/2012/1.

[18] See S/2003/641, annex.

Organization of American States, the European pact to combat international drug trafficking, the European pact against synthetic drugs, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Senior Officials on Drug Matters workplan to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009-2015) with the aim of achieving a drug-free South-East Asia by 2015 and the South American Council on the World Drug Problem of the Union of South American Nations, as well as the recent intensification of partnering between the States members of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America within the framework of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which aims, inter alia, to substantially reduce illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, the Accra declaration,[19] adopted at the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012, and the thirtieth International Drug Enforcement Conference, held in Moscow from 5 to 7 June 2013;

General challenges and priorities for action

22. *Note with concern*, while acknowledging the progress made by Member States, that some continuing and emerging challenges of the world drug problem may hinder our common efforts to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and call upon all Member States and relevant stakeholders to further strengthen their practical implementation;

23. *Underscore* that both the persistent and the new challenges in countering the world drug problem related to drug demand and supply reduction and to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation remain a common and shared responsibility and should continue to be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and fully consistent with applicable international human rights obligations, on both the drug demand and supply reduction sides, and urge Member States and all relevant stakeholders to further consolidate their efforts in order to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action by addressing those challenges, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals;

24. *Also underscore* the need to respond to shifting trafficking routes and new drug trafficking trends, including Internet-based e-commerce and mail-order services;

25. *Note* the importance of an integrated approach in drug policies, including by strengthening the partnerships between public health, justice and law enforcement sectors and facilitating inter-agency cooperation and communication, where appropriate;

26. *Express* the need for a better understanding of the social and economic drivers of the world drug problem;

27. *Note* the emerging challenge of polydrug abuse in some regions;

[19] Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/2, annex.

28. *Are concerned* that amphetamine-type stimulants continue to pose a serious and evolving challenge to international drug control efforts;

29. *Encourage* Member States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, to endeavour to ensure that measures taken at the national and local levels in response to economic and financial constraints do not disproportionately impact the implementation of comprehensive and balanced drug demand and supply reduction policies, including adequate provisions of related health measures, in accordance with national legislation, as well as sufficient efforts for supply reduction;

30. *Highlight* the need to continue providing technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, upon their request; to establish and further improve national drug control strategies and measures; to promote more targeted capacity-building initiatives based on scientific evidence for competent national authorities; to review and update legal frameworks and law enforcement institutions, taking into account applicable international human rights obligations; to improve existing mechanisms for international cooperation; and to foster the development of national monitoring systems and statistics to elaborate proper data collection and analysis that allow for the identification of current trends, institutional capacities and the effects of drug control measures;

31. *Call on* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[20] and, as appropriate, the Protocols thereto[21] and States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption[22] to make more effective use of the relevant provisions for international cooperation contained in those conventions, in order to counter some aspects of the world drug problem;

32. *Welcome* the measures taken so far and stress the need to continue to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order for the Office to fulfil its mandates effectively, efficiently and with the appropriate resources;

33. *Identify* the following achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action:

A. Demand reduction and related measures

Achievements

1. *Recognize* that drug addiction is a health problem and that many Member States have adopted national drug strategies with drug demand reduction components that include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration measures, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, and aimed at monitoring and researching the drug

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[21] Ibid., vols. 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[22] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

situation, and encourage Member States that have not yet done so to consider the development, adoption and effective implementation of such strategies, in accordance with national policies and legislation, as well as their timely evaluation, review and strengthening, as appropriate;

2. *Note* that some Member States, within their national drug control strategies, are expanding access to prevention, treatment, diagnosis, care and support services relating to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases for people who inject drugs, and also note that those States that have implemented the interventions outlined in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide*[23] and, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, have remarkably reduced the number of HIV infections, with some countries approaching the elimination of injecting drug use-related transmission of HIV;

3. *Also note* that various Member States, within their legal frameworks and in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, as well as other relevant international laws, have implemented comprehensive drug demand reduction programmes for offenders, particularly children, and have also provided, within their national strategies, a broad range of alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate drug-related cases of a minor nature or in cases in which the person who abuses drugs has committed an offence as outlined in the relevant provisions of the international drug control conventions;

4. *Take note* of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, and encourage the further development of the International Standards on the basis of scientific evidence, as well as their effective implementation;

5. *Welcome* efforts made by several Member States to develop combined public education and law enforcement initiatives to address the rise of drug abuse;

Challenges and priorities for action

6. *Consider* as main challenges in addressing the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances the need to increase focus on, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of domestic legal systems and national legislation of Member States, drug-related health effects, taking into account the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, vulnerable youth, women, including pregnant women, people with medical and psychiatric co-morbidities, ethnic minorities and socially marginalized individuals, and to further promote and strengthen effective national drug control strategies based on scientific evidence, with components for drug demand reduction that include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation,

[23] *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users: 2012 Revision* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012).

recovery and social reintegration, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse;

7. *Highlight* the need for Member States to formulate and implement, where appropriate, a broad system of primary prevention and early intervention based on scientific evidence, such as the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and other measures, including educational activities and interactive campaigns;

8. *Reaffirm* the need to further strengthen public health systems, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to demand reduction based on scientific evidence;

9. *Highlight* the need to develop or continue strengthening, within a comprehensive national drug control strategy, national monitoring mechanisms that collect and analyse data on current trends in illicit demand for drugs, including on possible gaps in the provision of appropriate public health, educational and social services, and call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations to support, upon request, those efforts, in cooperation with Member States;

10. *Invite* Member States to further undertake measures required to ensure access for all to comprehensive drug demand reduction measures, taking into account the specific needs of women and children and the circumstances they face with regard to drug problems, so that they benefit equally and without discrimination from those measures, and encourage the continuation of international cooperation in that regard;

11. *Reiterate* our commitment to reducing the transmission of HIV among injecting drug users by 50 per cent by 2015, in line with the agreed international targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[24] and note that available evidence indicates that further efforts are required to achieve the Declaration's global target;

12. *Encourage* Member States, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, to consider providing, as appropriate, the measures aimed at minimizing the negative public health and social impacts of drug abuse that are outlined in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide*, and also encourage, where appropriate, bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address that challenge;

13. *Underscore* the need to deepen knowledge of the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, and highlight the need to develop comprehensive and integrated approaches to the detection, analysis and identification of new psychoactive substances, trends and possible negative health and other impacts of those substances, in close cooperation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and

[24] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations and global and regional cooperation frameworks;

14. *Note with concern* that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and for palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and highlight the need for Member States, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as appropriate, to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with national legislation, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to realize the aims of the three international drug control conventions;

B. Supply reduction and related measures

Achievements

15. *Note with appreciation* the progress made with respect to measures related to the illicit production and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, while ensuring their availability exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, and underscore that the world drug problem continues to be a major problem in many parts of the world and hinders socioeconomic development and the well-being of people;

16. *Welcome* the efforts made by various Member States to significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the manufacture of psychotropic substances, within the framework of sustainable crop control measures, including eradication, law enforcement measures and development strategies such as alternative development, including preventive alternative development programmes, where they have been applied, as well as other successful national strategies, in accordance with the international drug control conventions;

17. *Recognize* the efforts of Member States in developing law enforcement techniques in their drug control efforts through, inter alia, the exchange of information and best practices, as well as regional and international coordination, capacity-building and, in some cases, cross-border operations and maritime control;

18. *Also recognize* the efforts made by interested Member States in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to adjust their monitoring systems by taking into account country-specific conditions, in order to assess progress in preventing, eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to ensure the comparability of statistics, in order to allow for better assessment of progress towards achieving the targets set in the plan of action of the Political

Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;

19. *Welcome* the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and encourage interested Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, donors and other relevant stakeholders to be guided by those guiding principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development;

20. *Recognize* the progress made in the development of a consolidated international response to the increasing availability of new psychoactive substances that may pose risks to public health and safety, including the development of a global reference point, the early warning advisory and cooperation with Member States and relevant regional organizations in the identification and reporting of such substances, in order to increase data collection, improve our collective understanding and find effective policy responses, and acknowledge the continuing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the capacity of Member States and improve the application of the international scheduling process, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board;

21. *Acknowledge* the significant progress achieved by Member States in cooperation with relevant international organizations and United Nations bodies, in particular the International Narcotics Control Board, in the sphere of precursors control, welcome those joint efforts, supported by utilization of Pre-Export Notification Online, which has significantly increased the effectiveness of those joint efforts in reducing the diversion of precursors controlled under the 1988 Convention from international trade channels, and call on Member States that have not yet done so to consider making full use of Pre-Export Notification Online;

Challenges and priorities for action

22. *Acknowledge* that law enforcement measures alone cannot address those challenges, and recognize the importance of promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach for a successful response;

23. *Also acknowledge* the need to scientifically evaluate, where appropriate, drug supply reduction measures, in order to direct government resources to initiatives that have proved to be successful in tackling the causes of the world drug problem;

24. *Stress* the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and money-laundering, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations to avoid detection and prosecution;

25. *Recognize* that the effective application of and respect for the rule of law contributes to combating the world drug problem and facilitates efforts to hold drug traffickers and perpetrators of related crimes accountable for their actions;

26. *Reiterate* the need to strengthen international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, where appropriate, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

27. *Also reiterate* the need to develop sustainable crop control strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, giving appropriate attention to alternative development as an essential part of those strategies, in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, with a view to developing products, through alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, identified on the basis of market demand and value-added production chains, including those referred to in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 55/8 of 16 March 2012 and resolution 56/15 of 15 March 2013, entitled "Follow-up to the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem with respect to the development of strategies on voluntary marketing tools for products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development";

28. *Underscore* the need to identify and better understand the new and increasing challenge of potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances that are emerging at a rapid rate, taking into account that information and communication technologies are a facilitator of their distribution, and stress the need to strengthen cooperation by collecting and sharing data on the production, distribution and effects of those substances;

29. *Encourage* Member States to monitor trends emerging in some regions in the import, export and distribution of some synthetic opioid analgesics not under international control, in particular tramadol, which is used in many countries for the effective treatment of moderate to severe pain, to monitor patterns in the non-medical use and misuse of those substances within their national borders and to continue, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations, sharing and exchanging information on those emerging trends and patterns through bilateral and multilateral channels, while considering appropriate measures in accordance with national legislation aimed at preventing and reducing the non-medical use and misuse, the supply from illicit sources and the diversion of those substances, while ensuring their availability for medical and scientific purposes;

30. *Highlight* the need for Member States to work more closely with the International Narcotics Control Board by exchanging information on

trafficking in precursor chemicals and other non-scheduled substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including on new methods for their diversion, as mandated in article 12, paragraph 12, of the 1988 Convention, and to increase monitoring of trade in non-scheduled substances listed in the Board's limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances, and encourage Governments to adopt the concept of industry as a critical partner in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals and facilitating the identification of suspicious transactions of non-scheduled substances in order to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

31. *Note* that the diversion of precursor chemicals, including pharmaceutical preparations containing those chemicals, continues to be a major challenge in curbing the illicit production and manufacture of drugs, and emphasize the need to further strengthen control of precursor chemicals by Member States, as appropriate, including through the extensive use of tools prepared by the International Narcotics Control Board, such as Pre-Export Notification Online and the online Precursors Incident Communication System, the development of voluntary codes of conduct in cooperation with concerned industries and other relevant companies, the strengthening of public-private partnerships and enhanced international cooperation;

32. *Express concern* that illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain a major challenge in countering the world drug problem, and recognize the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures for the purpose of reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of such crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges;

33. *Recognize* the significant role played by countries with accumulated experience in alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes, and invite them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by the illicit cultivation of crops, with a view to using them, where appropriate, in accordance with the national specificities of each State;

34. *Stress* the need to further strengthen international cooperation and the need for enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governance and institutions, improve access to legal markets and infrastructure, promote the participation of local communities and consider the participation of multilateral and bilateral development agencies in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

35. *Recognize* that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention and on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

36. *Also recognize* the need to improve international cooperation in relation to the monitoring and interdiction of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, including through the timely exchange of information consistent with national law and procedures; by intensifying, as appropriate, law enforcement cooperation such as border control, including where possible joint border control measures; by strengthening maritime control cooperation; and, upon request by Member States, through the provision of related drug control equipment and the development of new practical measures to effectively monitor and interdict drug trafficking and enable the effective disruption of those organizations;

37. *Acknowledge* that in many Member States integrated supply reduction strategies have been adopted, often complemented by comprehensive strategies against organized crime that include components against drug trafficking, and acknowledge the active efforts of Member States, at both the national and international levels, to combat illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking, as well as other drug-related crimes;

C. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

Achievements

38. *Acknowledge* the efforts made by States parties in the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and, as appropriate, the Protocols thereto and of the Convention against Corruption, which constitute valuable tools for confronting some aspects of the world drug problem, note with appreciation the increasing level of adherence to those conventions, and call on Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to those conventions;

39. *Also acknowledge* the importance of international, regional and subregional cooperation as an effective measure against money-laundering and the importance of structuring domestic regulatory and supervisory systems and mechanisms using international initiatives in that area as guidelines, where appropriate;

40. *Recognize* that regional and international frameworks have effectively promoted the implementation of international standards contributing to the fight against money-laundering and other financial crimes and have built trust among officials, leading to a better understanding of their respective legal and procedural requirements;

Challenges and priorities

41. *Express concern* over the many challenges encountered in addressing money-laundering, acknowledge that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering activities at the global level remains low, and therefore continue to underscore the need for increased availability of information on proceeds of crime resulting from transnational organized crime, in order to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;

42. *Reaffirm* the need for Member States to review and, if necessary, strengthen coordinated measures, enhance capacity-building to combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking and improve judicial cooperation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels, to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes;

43. *Underscore* the need to strengthen national, regional and international networks for the exchange of operational information in compliance with national legislation and procedures among the relevant authorities, in order to facilitate the detection, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking and related crimes and criminal asset recovery;

44. *Urge* Member States, in their efforts to combat the laundering of money derived from illicit drug trafficking and other serious crimes, to continue to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention, the Convention against Corruption and, in accordance with national legislation, the Forty Recommendations on Money-Laundering of the Financial Action Task Force, within its mandate, and by, among other things, establishing new or strengthening existing domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, trafficking in and diversion of precursors and other serious crimes of a transnational nature in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering by, inter alia, ensuring that legal provisions in compliance with due process of law, such as banking secrecy laws, do not needlessly hinder the effectiveness of national and international systems for countering money-laundering and do not constitute grounds for the refusal of mutual legal assistance and by making money-laundering an extraditable offence, in accordance with national legislation, including by recognizing the widest range of predicate offences;

45. *Promote*, where appropriate, in the framework of international cooperation, the use of law enforcement techniques, including special investigative techniques such as controlled delivery and lawful electronic surveillance, undercover operations or cooperating defendants, consistent with national legislation and international law, including applicable human rights obligations, in order to ensure that drug traffickers are brought to justice and that major criminal organizations are disrupted and dismantled.

Annex II

Outcome of the round-table discussions of the high-level segment

Round-table discussions of the high-level segment

1. Round-table discussions were held on 13 and 14 March 2014 on the following themes:

(a) Demand reduction: reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach;

(b) Supply reduction: reducing the illicit supply of drugs, control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants, and international cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on alternative development;

(c) International cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

2. On 13 March, the outcome of the round table on demand reduction was presented by the Chair of that round table, Francisco de Asís Babín Vich (Spain). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on demand reduction: reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach

The importance of demand reduction based on scientific evidence in the context of a health-centred approach to the drug problem was universally emphasized, and it was underlined that in the drug control conventions health was considered critical to achieving healthier and safer societies. Drug control policies based exclusively on counteracting production and trafficking were not sustainable.

Although not all countries would be implementing all of them, a range of interventions and policies were part of a comprehensive and balanced approach. Such interventions and policies concerned drug prevention, globally and with special emphasis on particularly vulnerable groups such as children, youth and women; drug treatment, both pharmacological and psychosocial; the treatment of co-morbidities; and social protection.

Some speakers referred to the scientific evidence pointing to the fact that the incidence of HIV was reduced in communities that implemented harm reduction services and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide the technical assistance necessary to implement and scale up those services.

Many participants reported good results in their countries with regard to reducing the prevalence of the consumption of specific substances and/or the consequences of drug use, particularly HIV. The increase in the use of new psychoactive substances was a challenge in many countries, although there had been some early successes in developing a response.

Drug use and drug dependence were seen as health issues, and, in many countries, providing people who used drugs and/or suffered from drug dependence with treatment and support rather than imposing criminal sanctions or punishment had been found to be helpful. At the same time, concern was expressed with regard to countries moving towards legalizing the use of cannabis, as that would have an impact on the incidence and prevalence of cannabis use, particularly among young people.

The importance of focusing on early interventions was underlined. Prevention should start early, and many countries were strengthening their capacity with regard to screening and early intervention.

The capacity of practitioners addressing the issue of drugs was also being strengthened, but concern was expressed at the fact that such capacity-building was still not adequate. Interventions needed to be carried out by qualified and well-trained professionals, and must be based on scientific evidence.

Speakers expressed the need to support capacity-building in respect of the full spectrum of interventions and policies, as well as data collection. The standards developed by UNODC on those issues were seen as crucial reference points that needed to be adapted, adopted and disseminated widely.

The need for the systematic and sustainable involvement of all concerned was emphasized repeatedly: governments, municipalities and civil society organizations could contribute to the development and implementation of policies and the delivery of interventions.

3. On 13 March, the outcome of the round table on supply reduction was presented by the Chair of that round table, Kittipong Kittayarak (Thailand). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on supply reduction: reducing the illicit supply of drugs, control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants, and international cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on alternative development

Participants expressed concern about the increasing levels of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and noted that illicit cultivation had worsened since 2009.

Speakers noted the need for better information on the number of drug users in various regions in order to tackle the illicit drug problem effectively, highlighted the importance of international cooperation to tackle cross-border trafficking, citing as an example the increasing rates of maritime trafficking using shipping containers, and noted the need for increased sharing of information and intelligence between authorities on all matters relating to the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking.

Participants spoke of the need to maintain effective control over the precursor chemicals in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, because organized criminal groups were diverting "pre-precursors" and non-scheduled substances not under

international control to produce new psychoactive substances and other amphetamine-type substances.

Speakers referred to the increasing challenge posed by the growth in methamphetamine abuse, and expressed their concern over the encroachment being made by new psychoactive substances in illicit drug markets.

Participants reiterated the importance of precursor control and suggested that stricter controls should be introduced to intercept the smuggling of precursors into illicit drug-production areas.

Participants highlighted the successful reduction in the production of opium in the South-East Asian region and in the production and trafficking of cocaine from the Andean region, which had been achieved through both alternative development and law enforcement efforts to dismantle organized criminal groups. Participants also noted that the sharing of best practices and experiences was needed.

Participants noted that alternative development must be based on the principle of shared responsibility, taking a balanced and comprehensive approach, supported by strong international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and the involvement of stakeholders.

Speakers highlighted the importance of addressing the driving factors that led marginalized communities to engage in illicit crop cultivation and noted that only a fraction of communities currently benefited from alternative development interventions.

A number of speakers stressed the role of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and welcomed efforts being made to put those principles into practice.

Participants recognized the importance of capacity-building and the need for alternative, including preventive alternative, development strategies to be designed in conjunction with stakeholders, including civil society, stressing the need to work with the private sector in order to facilitate access to markets.

Speakers reiterated that alternative development was a long-term, high-investment action that, if properly implemented, resulted in improved sustainable livelihoods and a decrease in illicit crop cultivation.

Speakers highlighted that a successful international supply reduction strategy involved alternative development, crop eradication, law enforcement and interdiction.

4. On 14 March, the outcome of the round table on international cooperation was presented by Dubravka Simonovic (Croatia). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on international cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

Speakers expressed concern about the scale of illicit financial flows originating from drug trafficking and noted that the proceeds of crime could flow through the banking system or formal and informal money or value transfer systems, or could be transported by cross-border cash couriers.

Participants highlighted that the disruption of financial flows originating from illicit activities was a major component in combating transnational organized crime.

Speakers noted the importance of a global anti-money-laundering system based on the United Nations drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, in combating illicit financial flows. The key elements of such a system included a national legal framework to combat money-laundering, the establishment and strengthening of national authorities such as financial intelligence units, dedicated law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies, the application of special investigative techniques, a trained judiciary and the establishment of multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

Many speakers emphasized the close connections between drug trafficking, corruption and money-laundering. In addition to the potential for corruption to undermine efforts to combat money-laundering, other challenges included insufficient resources, lack of expertise on combating money-laundering and confiscating assets, the increasing misuse of offshore financial centres and obstacles to international legal cooperation.

Participants highlighted the importance of international judicial cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and pointed out the particular value of such cooperation at the regional level, where countries shared common concerns and challenges.

Speakers reported progress in both concluding bilateral treaties on international judicial cooperation and amending domestic legal frameworks in the light of the relevant United Nations conventions.

The work carried out by UNODC to establish regional networks that facilitated cooperation in practice and offered platforms for capacity-building, such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, was acknowledged by participants.

Speakers drew attention to the need for a flexible and timely approach in the provision of international judicial cooperation, based on the principle of common responsibility among States. Participants highlighted, in particular, the need for effective cooperation related to non-coercive measures and the identification and confiscation of criminal assets.

Speakers referred to the challenges that still remained with regard to international judicial cooperation, notably in respect of the establishment of competent national authorities and their role as points of contact, the development of guidelines for successful requests, the establishment of mechanisms for the enforcement of requests for restraint and confiscation of criminal assets, the application of the dual-criminality requirement and the non-extradition of nationals.